



The UUCC Newsletter

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Chesapeake

volume II issue 2

www.theuucc.org

June, 2011

News from Membership and Growth by Linda Bodycomb: Chair, Membership and Growth

Until this year, UUCC has boasted an annual membership growth rate of at least a 10 percent. For the first time, UUCC membership numbers declined, mostly due to members moving away, including our minister, Rev. Lori Staubitz. Normally membership declines when a minister leaves; however, our losses have come from relocations. The actual final membership count won't be known for some time, but it could be down from 45 to 36 members, which is the original number when we received our charter in 2008. Of the remaining members, 24 or two-thirds are founding charter members.

We welcomed two new members this year: Kathy Kellam and Tom Mellies, who are great additions to our congregation! We were sorry to lose Rev. Lori and husband, Ward.

Dave and Vicki Reed, who left at the end of our first year, remained members until last month. They recently joined a Texas UU congregation near where they live. Mari Micheli moved to Champaign-Urbana, Ill., where she has a new job. Russell and Laura Starks and their wonderful children, Abbey and Luke, are moving to the Columbia, Md. area in June. The Lourette-Brady family is moving to the United Arab Emirates. We will miss them all and value their friendships wherever they are!

Next year, we look forward to seeing positive growth with the addition of more new members. In the meantime, we should reassess our ministry goals to reflect fewer members and less resources.

SUMMER CALENDAR *SAVE THE DATE!*

June 5 - Last service of our congregational year and Annual Meeting. The Rev. Mark Hoelter returns to our pulpit. Following the service, we will hold our Annual Meeting. We elect the Board president, vote on our 2011-12 budget and any initiatives presented by the Board of Trustees. Members: please plan to attend and let your voice be heard as well as to make a quorum for voting. Non

-members: you are welcome to attend for a better introduction to how we govern our congregation. It is truly a democratic process. Snacks and child care are available.

Check our website at www.theuucc.org throughout the summer for updates on summer events.

Friday, June 17 – River Concert Meet-Up at 5:30 p.m.

Come to the River Concert at St. Mary's College and enjoy with fellow UUs. We will hear our own Eliza Garth as the soloist performing with the orchestra Bartok's Third Piano Concerto. Did you know Bartok was a Unitarian? Is this a coincidence or is Eliza up to something? We will meet at 5:30 under the trees to the right of the stage at the back of the "Serious Listening" section. Look for the UU sign. Bring your lawn chair, sunscreen, hat and food and beverage. Food is also available from concert vendors. For more information, email Linda at membership@theuucc.org

Sunday, July 17 - Intergenerational Service, Potluck Lunch & Pool Party at 11 a.m.

Join us for our annual mid-summer service under the Linden tree at Jim and Linda Bodycomb's home. The service has an environmental theme: what else can you imagine under a 200-year-old tree? Bring your lawn chair and a potluck dish to share. You are welcome to bring your swim suit and towel for a dip in the pool. This service is a great way to catch up with everyone mid-summer. RSVP to Linda by email at membership@theuucc.org

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Sunday, September 4 – Labor Day Picnic at Cove Point Park, Lusby, Md.

Join us for our second annual Labor Day Picnic at Cove Point Park. It is a lovely place to gather, share food and play games. For more information, contact Dee DeLauder at webmaster@theuucc.org

Sunday, September 11 - Resume regular 2011-2012 worship services. Mark your calendar.

UUC's Month of Great Guest

Speakers

We were privileged to hear wonderful guest speakers at our worship services throughout May. Rather than our twice-a-month guest ministers, in May we had three outstanding guests: one was a minister and two were lay speakers.



The Rev. John Crestwell shared his experiences of becoming an advocate for marriage equality in Maryland. Rev. Crestwell is associate minister at the Annapolis UU Church and the outreach minister for the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland. He provided a strong inspirational message which was a boost for those still working through this controversial subject.



Judge Mark Bernstein A lay leader at his UU congregation in Philadelphia, the Germantown UU Society, Mark Bernstein focused on Joseph Campbell, an American mythologist, writer and lecturer, and Campbell's message that "the ancient myths were designed to harmonize

the mind and body...to put the mind in accord with the body and the way of life in accord with the way nature dictates." Mark, a district court judge in Philadelphia, said Campbell believed myths share with all religions the human objective to live the "good life" in harmony with existence and thus experience the mystery of life. He suggested that if Unitarian Universalism had saints, Joseph Campbell would surely be one



of them.

Rabia Zahir joined us for our Fourth Sunday Social Justice Program at the Asbury Retirement Center to discuss what it is like to be a Muslim woman in Southern Maryland. Born in Pakistan, Rabia came to the United States 30 years ago at age 17.

A member of the Southern Maryland Islamic Center in Prince Frederick, Rabia talked about Islam and several of the misconceptions about her faith. She said we need to separate politics from the Islamic religion. The public receives misinformation from extremists as well as the press and leaders who don't really understand the message Islam teaches. It is a spiritual tradition emphasizing love, faith in God and a spirit of charity – a tradition shared by both Christians and Jews.

Please remember that Sunday June 5th is our last congregational service for the 2010-2011 church year. There will be a congregational meeting after the service where voting for by-laws changes and new Board President will take place. If you want your voice heard concerning these church issues, please plan to attend.



The ECHO House

484 MAIN STREET, PRINCE FREDERICK, MD 20678

Camp Out For Calvert!

RAISING AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING THE HOMELESS OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

August 27 through August 28, 2011
Time: 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Navy Recreation Center
Solomons, Maryland**

To raise awareness and funding, Project ECHO, Inc. will host the FIRST Annual "Camp Out For Calvert" Family Homelessness overnight event on Saturday, August 27, from 2:00 p.m. through Sunday, August 28, 2011 at the Navy Recreation Center. Participants experience what it's like to be homeless by bringing their own tent or cardboard box, spending the night outdoors and eating their own camp fire prepared meals. The experience will include individuals, entire families and youth groups. Other activities include a contest for the best Box City home design, talent contest and musical entertainment. Be prepared to brush up on your camp-fire songs and have fun! *There is not a minimum charge to attend the event! You just raise funds like you would for a walkathon!*



Saturday

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Check In
6:00 p.m. Card Board City Construction
6:30 p.m. Cooking Time!
8:00 p.m. Music and Speakers
10:00 p.m. Lights Out

Sunday

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
11:00 a.m. Check Out
Enjoy yourself for the rest of the day at the Navy Recreation Center!

- *When is registration deadline?* Friday, August 5, 1:00 p.m.
- *What about food?* Earn your badge and bring your own food and beverages!
- *What about security?* The Navy Rec. Center provides security at the gate.
- *How many campers per site?* With 50 sites, 5 campers per site and one adult per site.
- *Do you provide the boxes?* Team Captains can pick up the boxes at the Captain Meeting!
- *What can I bring?* Your tent and camping gear. The pools are open so extra towels too!
- *What about "the facilities"?* The sites are located close to the bath-house.
- Visit their web site to see what the Navy Rec. Center has to offer!
- <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/Content/EventAndFamilyRecreation/ThingsToDo/Recreation/SolomonsRecreationCenter/index.htm>

What is Project ECHO?

Project ECHO, Inc. provides emergency shelter to homeless men, women and children in our community. Since this nonprofit agency opened it's doors in 1992, it has offered a safe, drug and alcohol-free environment—24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

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